



# Intelligence Information Report

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

REPORT NO. CS-311/07841-70

DATE DISTR. 7 October 1970

COUNTRY South Vietnam/Laos

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SUBJECT U.S. Prisoners of War at Viet Cong  
Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue  
Detention Camp in Laos near Border of  
Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

ACQ Vietnam, Lanang (29 May - 1 June 1970)

SOURCE

1. Seven surviving crew members of two U.S. military helicopters which crashed in January 1970 in the Ashau-Aluoi area in western Thua Thien Province in Government of Vietnam (GVN) MR 1 were captured and interrogated for about 2 weeks at a detention camp maintained by the Viet Cong (VC) Military Region Tri-Thien-Hue (MRTTH) before being sent to Hanoi. Comment: VC MRTTH includes GVN Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces plus a portion of North Vietnam just north of the Demilitarized Zone.) The MRTTH detention camp was located in Laos near the border of Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam, about ten kilometers west of the VC supply route which feeds into Ashau, and west of Kou Boi Mountain in the Lang Ta forest area of Laos. Comment: This would place the camp in the vicinity of VC 2092. According to [redacted] a former member of the MRTTH Military Proselyting Section, who was captured on [redacted] 1970 in Quang Tri Province, the MRTTH detention camp was on the western slope of the Kou Boi Mountain in Savannakhet Province, Laos. He said the camp was about 15-20 kilometers west of Ashau Valley and about 3-hours' walking distance north of the Xe Sap River (sic). To his knowledge this was the only detention camp used by MRTTH for U.S. prisoners of war (POW)

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prior to their being sent to Hanoi. The U.S. POW's were usually detained no longer than 10 days.)

2. The MRTTH detention camp consisted of several small houses in a jungle clearing, the jungle growth providing a protective perimeter around the camp site. Usually, interrogation of the U.S. POW's began as soon as they arrived at the camp. The American Subsection of the MRTTH Military Proselyting Section was responsible for interrogating the prisoners. The prisoners were asked to provide order of battle information and were subjected to some political indoctrination, but no coercion was used. MRTTH treated the prisoners in accordance with instructions which originated in Hanoi in 1967 which directed MRTTH to take U.S. prisoners, keep them in good condition and send them to Hanoi for use by the North Vietnamese in negotiations with the Americans.

3. [REDACTED] who visited the MRTTH detention camp in [REDACTED] 1970, provided the following descriptions of the seven crew members of the two helicopters which were shot down and in which seven other Americans were killed.

a. Caucasian, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds, brown hair and eyes, age 27-28, heavy build, ruddy complexion, wore a single-piece green fatigue uniform and spoke some French.

b. Caucasian, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing about 145 pounds, black hair and brown eyes, age 25, ruddy complexion, medium build, wore a gold ring and also wore a single-piece green fatigue uniform.

c. Caucasian, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds, brown hair and blue eyes, age 27-28, heavy build, ruddy complexion, wore a green fatigue uniform with a belt around his waist.

d. Caucasian, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 155 pounds, blond hair and blue eyes, age 26-27, wore a mustache, heavy build, and wore a green fatigue uniform with a belt around his waist.

e. Caucasian, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 155 pounds, white hair and blue eyes with thick eyebrows, wore a beard and thick mustache, medium build, 27-28 years old and wore a single-piece green fatigue uniform.

f. Caucasian, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 150 pounds, black hair and blue eyes, heavy build, 27-28 years old, and wore a green fatigue uniform with a belt around his waist.

g. Caucasian, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds, brown hair and eyes, wore a mustache, heavy build, 25-26 years old, and wore a single-piece green fatigue uniform.

4. [REDACTED] Comment: The Joint Prisoner Recovery Center had no record of seven people missing in action from two downed helicopters in the area of Aluoi-Ashau.)

5. Field Dissem: State USMACV CORDS 7th Air Force USARV NAVFORV 525th MI Gp 6499 SAG OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC